Financial Year	Status of the case
2002-03 2003-04 2004-05	Assessments are completed
2005-06 2006-07	The reports have been sent to Assessing Officers

(c) No prosecutions filed in these matters.

(d) Not applicable in view of the reply to part (c).

Lowering of excise duty on pharmaceutical products

3560. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Parliamentary Committee has recommended the Government to bring down excise duty on all pharmaceutical products to 8 per cent from the present 16 per cent;

(b) whether they have also recommended that duty should be completely exempted on drugs to fight cancer and AIDS; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government had received recommendation for reduction in excise duty on pharmaceutical products from 16% to 8%

(b) Government had also received recommendation for exemption from excise duty on Anti-cancer and Anti-AIDS drugs.

(c) The recommendation for reduction of excise duty on pharmaceutical products from 16% to 8% was examined but it was decided to continue with the existing rates. As regards the recommendation for exemption from excise duty on Anti-cancer and Anti-AIDS drugs, Government had exempted a number of Anti-cancer and Anti-AIDS drugs and bulk drugs for their manufacture from excise duty.